

The Alaska State Special Education Handbook currently states:

ACCESS TO AND PURCHASE OF INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS

The State and the LEA will adopt the National Instructional Materials Accessibility standard for providing instructional materials to blind and other persons with print disabilities.

Not later than 2 years after enactment of IDEA 2004, an LEA must acquire the print materials in the same manner and condition as the SEA. LEA must assure the SEA that they will provide instructional in a timely manner.

ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY RESOURCES

Additional information is located in the Appendix H and Resources section of this handbook

APPROVED change (pending):

ACCESS TO AND PURCHASE OF LARGE PRINT, BRAILLE, AUDIO/RECORDED MATERIALS - (AIM)

The school districts must provide qualifying students (blind, vision impaired or other print disability) materials that comply with the National Instructional Materials Accessibility Standard (NIMAS). These instructional materials must be provided to the students in the same timeliness as non-disabled/ non-qualifying peers. LEAs may obtain these instructional materials from commercial publishers or other supplier, provided the materials meet NIMAS requirements. EED provides NIMAS support to school districts through coordination with the Special Education Service Agency (SESA).

It is the district's responsibility to order NIMAS qualifying materials in the same manner materials are ordered for all other students. If appropriate materials are not available, it is the district's responsibility to search other potential providers of NIMAS qualifying, modified or alternative materials. In the event the district cannot obtain the materials, the district may contact SESA. After providing SESA: proof of eligibility, student and district information, Student and Parent Use Agreement confirmation and specific information concerning the materials required (in accordance with REG CITED HERE), the district must submit a Purchase Order with the specific language required for NIMAS compliance materials. Examples and support materials, including the specific NIMAS Standards are included in Appendix H of this handbook.

For additional information concerning NIMAS, contact the Department of Education and Early Development at (907) 465-8693 or SESA at (907) 334-1300

A list of NIMAS qualifying producers/sources is provided in Appendix H of this handbook.

[SESA has agreed to provide sample of the forms required]

Nothing in this section shall be construed to require a school district to coordinate with the NIMAC. If a district chooses not to coordinate with the NIMAC, the LEA must provide an assurance to the SEA that the LEA will provide instructional materials to blind persons or other persons with print disabilities in a timely manner.

Nothing in this section relieves an LEA of its responsibility to ensure that children with disabilities who need instructional materials in accessible formats but are not included under the definition of blind or other persons with print disabilities in 34 CFR 300.172(e)(1)(i) or who need materials that cannot be produced from NIMAS files, receive those instructional materials in a timely manner. [34 CFR 300.210] [20 U.S.C. 1413(a)(6)(E)]